

**HEARING HELD IN PUBLIC**  
**Professional Conduct Committee**  
**Review Hearing**

**13 December 2024**

**Name:** SHIEKH, Mohammed Qusim

**Registration number:** 67210

**Case number:** CAS-202792-L6N5K5

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**General Dental Council:** Ms Aleksandra Manning-Rees, Counsel,  
Instructed by Holly Watt, IHLPS

**Registrant:** Present  
Represented by Mr Thomas Coke-Smyth, Counsel  
Instructed by Surjit Dubb, Hempsons Solicitors

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**Outcome:** Registrant safe to practise unrestricted  
Conditions revoked forthwith

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**Committee members:** Aysha Ahmed-Kibria (Dentist member, Chair)  
Valerie Atkinson (Lay member)  
Lisa Shaw (Dental Care Professional member)

**Legal Adviser:** Melanie Swinnerton

**Committee Secretary:** Jenny Hazell

Mr Shiekh,

1. On 20 December 2023 the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) directed that your name be restored to the Dentists Register. It also directed that your registration be made subject to an order of conditions for 12 months ("the Order"). The PCC directed that a review take place before the expiry of the Order. The Order is due to expire on 16 January 2025.
2. This is a resumed hearing before the PCC pursuant to section 27C of the Dentists Act 1984 (as amended) ('the Act'). The hearing was conducted remotely using Microsoft Teams.
3. You are present at these proceedings and you are represented by Mr Coke-Smyth, Counsel. Ms Manning-Rees, Counsel, appears on behalf of the General Dental Council (GDC).

### **Background to your case**

4. Your name was erased from the Dentists Register following a substantive hearing before the PCC held in January and February 2008. The basis of the PCC's decision was your conviction on 3 August 2006 at Northampton Crown Court for the offence of conspiracy to defraud.
5. You pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to defraud, in that between the 19 December 1994 and 4 August 2000, you dishonestly obtained considerable sums of money from the public purse, namely the Dental Practice Board acting on behalf of the National Health Service (NHS). This involved dishonestly making claims for repayment in relation to circuits. It was found that you received a 50% fee from remuneration claimed by associate dentists, where the dentists concerned had not specifically travelled the requisite distance or travelled at all to provide treatment in an emergency under the NHS arrangements.
6. On 4 September 2006, following your guilty plea, you were sentenced to twelve months imprisonment, suspended for eighteen months. You were ordered to pay a fine of £50,000 by 12 September 2006 or, in default, to serve eighteen months imprisonment. Additionally, you were ordered to pay, by 12 September 2006, £100,000 towards the costs of the prosecution. You were also ordered to pay £7,500 towards the costs of the prosecution to the Primary Care Trust concerned.
7. The PCC in 2008 found that your fitness to practise was impaired by reason of your conviction.
8. The PCC directed that your name be erased from the Dentists Register.

### **Application for restoration to the Dentists Register – 18 & 20 December 2023**

9. On 18 and 20 December 2023 the PCC considered your application for your name to be restored to the Dentists Register.
10. The PCC had before it a copy of your witness statement, evidence of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD), testimonials and Professional Development Plans. It also had regard to your own oral evidence. You gave evidence in respect of your actions which led to your erasure. You also spoke about the work you have been involved with since your erasure. This included your work as a registered manager for the Care Quality Commission. You were also practising as a dental nurse since 2019, having been granted admission to the Register for Dental Care Professionals in 2018.

11. You accepted that you would have become deskilled as a dentist and that if restored to the Dentists Register, it would be logical to have a workplace supervisor.

12. The PCC found that you were genuine and sincere in acknowledging your wrongdoing, and that you recognised the effect of your behaviour on the reputation of the dental profession and the public's confidence in it. It considered that you demonstrated insight into the wider consequences of your criminal offence. The PCC noted that your conduct since your erasure had included charity work and a clear dedication to the provision of dental services to the public. It also considered that your remediation had been considerable. The PCC was satisfied that you had done as much as you could in the circumstances to keep your clinical knowledge and skills up to date.

13. The PCC considered that the risk of repetition of the circumstances that led to your erasure was "highly unlikely". It decided that you were safe to resume practice as a dentist under conditions. The PCC stated in its determination

*"given the accepted minimal risk of repetition, the remorse and insight demonstrated by you in these proceedings, the remediation you have undertaken and the passage of considerable time during which you were of good character, such that the GDC permitted your admittance to the Register for dental care professionals, it can be satisfied that there is no risk of a repetition of the circumstances which led to your erasure and therefore no current risk to the public. Standing back, the Committee considered the overarching objective and whether the need to uphold proper professional standards and public confidence would be undermined if you were to be readmitted to the Dentists Register. Given all that you have done in advance of this hearing to satisfy the relevant considerations, the Committee recognised no inconsistency between the overarching objective and its finding that you should be restored to the Dentists Register."*

14. The PCC directed that your name be restored to the Dentists Register with conditions. This included a requirement that you must place yourself and remain under the direct supervision of a supervisor nominated by you, and agreed by the GDC, for a period of 3 months. Thereafter, you were to remain under close supervision of the workplace supervisor for a minimum of 9 months.

15. Your registration was subject to conditions for a period of 12 months. The PCC considered that a period of 12 months was comparable to the dental foundation training year and represented the minimum amount of time the PCC considered necessary for the protection of the public in order that you develop from your current level of skills and knowledge after 15 years away from the practice of dentistry to be a safe independent practitioner.

### **Today's review hearing**

16. The Committee has comprehensively reviewed your compliance with the Order today and has considered whether you are now fit to practise safely without restrictions on your registration. In doing so, the Committee has considered all the evidence presented. These included:

- copies of reports from your Workplace Supervisor and Reporter to the GDC as to your compliance with the conditions.
- a reference letter dated 7 December 2024 from your Workplace Supervisor and Reporter.
- a copy of your Personal Development Plan (PDP) (2024) provided to the GDC, in compliance with your conditions.

- a reflection letter from you dated 8 December 2024.
- Certificates of your CPD.

17. In your reflection letter dated 8 December you explained that over the last year you have been practising, while under supervision of your Workplace Supervisor and Reporter, as a dentist at a dental practice in Nottingham. You say that thanks to the exceptional mentorship and support from your Workplace Supervisor you now feel confident in your ability to provide unrestricted general dental services to patients. You describe feeling more confident in your abilities.

18. In the same reflection letter, you also set out the steps you have taken over the past 12 months in respect of your continuing professional development. This has included completing over 50 hours of CPD in a number of relevant courses such as NHS Rules and Regulations (April 2024).

19. The Committee's attention was drawn to the reports from your Workplace Supervisor and Reporter dated February 2024, March 2024, April 2024, July 2024 and October 2024. She reported positively on the progress you have made, with no concerns regarding your clinical abilities. In her most recent letter dated 7 December 2024 she states that you are "receptive to feedback and has shown a thoughtful, reflective approach to his professional development.". In summary, your Workplace Supervisor and Reporter confirmed that there had been no patient concerns whatsoever in relation to you and that she had no concerns regarding you practising on your own without any restrictions.

20. Ms Manning-Rees confirmed that the GDC did not seek to challenge the contents of the documents provided on your behalf, which demonstrate your compliance with the conditions imposed on your registration. The GDC's position is that it accepts that you have complied fully with the conditions imposed on your registration. She submitted that the GDC remains neutral as to whether you are now safe to return to unrestricted practise.

21. Mr Thomas Coke-Smyth referred the Committee to the various documents which demonstrate your compliance with the conditions and maintained that you are now safe to practise unrestricted. He made the point that your Workplace Supervisor and Reporter had supervised your work closely over the last year and had noted the substantial progress you had made. He also referred to the certificates of your CPD.

22. In short, Mr Thomas Coke-Smyth submitted that you have worked hard to demonstrate that you are safe to practise unrestricted and that you have complied fully with the conditions of practice imposed on your registration by the previous PCC. He invited the Committee to conclude that it is now safe for you to resume unrestricted practise and to revoke forthwith the order of conditions under Section 27C(2)(1) of the Act.

### **Decision on whether you are safe to return to unrestricted practise**

23. The Committee has considered and comprehensively reviewed all the information before it. It has taken into account the submissions made by Ms Manning-Rees on behalf of

the GDC as well as those made by Mr Coke-Smyth on your behalf. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Adviser.

24. The Committee considered whether you are safe to return to unrestricted practise. In doing so, it exercised its independent judgement. It had regard to the over-arching objective of the GDC, which is: the protection, promotion and maintenance of the health, safety and well-being of the public; the promotion and maintenance of public confidence in the dental profession; and the promotion and maintenance of proper professional standards and conduct for the members of the dental profession.

25. The Committee has had regard to the reports from your Workplace Supervisor and Reporter, who has had the opportunity to observe your clinical skills, professionalism and approach to clinical care during the last year. She confirmed that you have been complying with your conditions, there have been no patient complaints, no concerns raised in the workplace regarding your fitness to practise and that she had no concerns regarding you practising on your own without any restrictions. The Committee was reassured by this evidence given that your Workplace Supervisor and Reporter directly observed you for three months followed by an eight month period of close supervision.

26. The Committee has also taken into account the documentary evidence which demonstrate your compliance with the conditions imposed. It is clear from this evidence that you have worked hard to demonstrate that you are safe to practise unrestricted as well as demonstrating that you have gone the extra mile to demonstrate your commitment to developing your knowledge of dentistry. The Committee has concluded that you are now safe to return to unrestricted clinical practice.

27. Accordingly, for all these reasons, the Committee determined, pursuant to Section 27C(2)(1) of the Dentists Act 1984, as amended, to terminate the conditions order with immediate effect.

28. That concludes the hearing of this case.